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goal of one unit for every county was fulfilled. (There were 517 counties in Central-South China, according to the 1955 People's Handbook.) On a lower level, among the 4,386 ch'ü in Central-South China, 670 health centers and 136 clinics were opened. Since 1949, according to the report, 134 additional hospitals had been opened in the cities and the number of trained workers had tripled. Approximately 6,605 doctors were reported.[8]

III. THE HEALTH OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

One of the most significant early documents of the Chinese Communist regime was the Common Program. The health of women and children was given special attention in Article 48, which specified that attention should be paid to the protection of the health of mothers, infants, and children.[9] The Constitution, adopted on September 20, 1954, provides for the physical and mental development of the young people and the rights of women.[10] In speeches and reports on health matters in Communist China, the promotion of the well-being of women and children

8. Chang-chiang Jih-pao [Yangtze Daily], Sept. 30, 1952, p. 3.

9. The Important Documents of the First Plenary Session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Peking, Foreign Languages Press, 1949, p. 8.

10. Constitution of the People's Republic of China, Peking, Foreign Languages Press, 1954, Article 94, 96, pp. 98-99.

1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

has almost always been given prominence. The training of midwives, the re-education of "old-style" midwives, the establishment of maternity stations and health centers for women and children, and the prevention of various children's diseases have been particularly publicized in public health work in the Central-South Region as well as in the country as a whole.

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562
858
844

In mid-1952, in the six provinces of Central-South China, it was reported that 30,500 midwives were trained, and 50,000 - 60,000 additional midwives were scheduled to finish training by the end of the year. Other types of health cadres were trained to work for the betterment of the health of women and children. The same report expressed the hope that in a year or two there would be two midwives in every hsiang (village) in the region.[11]

When the vice-chairman of the Kwangtung People's Government made his four-year progress report in 1954, he claimed that 4,717 medical, nursing, and maternity workers and 19,000 midwives in the rural areas had been trained during that period in Kwangtung. As proof of the betterment of health of women and children in Kwangtung, he cited the results of an investigation in Yungyun (Weng-yüan) which showed a decrease in the infant mortality rate from 30 per cent to 2 per cent after the introduction of modern obstetrics in 1951.[12] (see p 352)

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11. Yangtze Daily, Sept. 30, 1952, p. 3.